the cause ... of much discomfort, and the source of disease" (204). The horizontal over-flow pipes leaked badly, saturating the woodwork and making the compartments and corridors "unhealthy" (205). The sinks had to be replaced in the bathrooms, nearer the perpendicular pipes, and the floors relayed. Unlike his predecessor however, who seemed to relish the opportunity to display his technical expertise in print, Clark self-consciously insists on describing such things verbally, while deprecating such description as inadequate, and appealing to the "satisfactoriness" of a result which he begs us to take on the authority of his word.

In the same year Clark reports the outbreak of an old, related scourge: "When the Spring began to open, typhoid fever broke out simultaneously in the Asylum and Central Prison" (209). The Asylum and the Central Prison continue to get their water from the same place, "at the western outlet of the Bay" (209). This water is, even to the naked eye, "full of animal impurities" (209). To the nose it stinks. The sediment in a sample taken from the Asylum reservoir consists of organic matter, attributed to the discharge from the city sewers, a dead horse, and "a few dogs" floating in the Bay (209). Some of the waste comes from the Asylum and the Central Prison themselves, since their sewers empty only 250 feet away from the intake. Clark depicts what he considers a serious threat for the entire city, the contamination of the water supply by the creation along the waterfront of a "continual flowing river of filth .... of sufficient volume to drive the machinery of a dozen grist mills" (209).

Without being able to ascertain the source of communicable disease beyond "indefinable organic matter" (210), Clark understands that even when such matter is invisibly diluted it can still propagate disease; much more dangerous, therefore, must be the visibly polluted water of Toronto Harbour. He therefore recommends that the Asylum draw its water from a point directly south, where "the open lake can be reached" (210). In the meantime, the patients will draw their water from several wells on Asylum property. After a few weeks of this, the outbreak subsides. This is perhaps the closest Clark comes to writing in the manner of his predecessor, on one of his favorite topics -- plague -- but he does not write that way for long.[ix]